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November 1, 2021

The Honorable Governor Gavin Newsom, State of California

1303 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 1173

Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsom,

As the President of the Health Services Association for California Community Colleges, on behalf of our Board of Directors, our membership, and the students in the California Community College system, I urge you to create a **COVID-19 vaccine mandate** for the remaining public education system in our state not yet covered by such a mandate, the California Community Colleges.

Our branch of public education has not been directed to follow this critical public health action to protect the health and life of our college communities. Thirty-three community colleges have already independently determined this course of action.

The CDC Guidance for Institutes of Higher Education (IHE's) note the following:

"IHEs where all students, faculty, and staff are **fully** vaccinated prior to the start of the semester can return to **full capacity in-person learning**, without requiring or recommending masking or physical distancing for people who are fully vaccinated in accordance with [CDC's Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People](#)." While indoor masking is now a recommendation, this does not remove the full capacity classroom indication. This seems a vital part of robust learning and decreasing the continual loss of student participation system wide.

We applaud and support the recent Diversity Equity and Inclusion focus of the CCCCO. This is an extremely important program for our CCC system to champion. And yet it is within many of the populations that create our diversity that COVID-19 is wreaking the highest toll in death and illness. We pledge to support them in their education, and we have the opportunity to support their health while they pursue that education as well.

This is the future workforce of California. We acknowledge that our students have many health-related barriers to success as we look at #RealCollege data for California Community Colleges. A social justice driven model of decision making compels us to remove as many barriers for our students as possible due to inequity. Do we really want to create *another* one by putting their health on the line when you have the choice to even that playing field with the K-12, CSU's and UC's by instituting a vaccine mandate?

We know that colleges without a mandate have more online classes to accommodate the physical distancing requirements and the eventuality of frequent quarantine and isolation needs. It is, unfortunately, well documented that students have lower success rates in online classes. Those who prefer in person classes will not have that choice and have an increased risk to fail than those who self-select to take online classes.

While many of our CCC districts have taken up a vaccine mandate, it has taken crucial time in this pandemic to get to

that decision. We have been encouraged at the national level with the invitation to join the White House [COVID-19 College Vaccine Challenge](#).

The Health Services Association of California Community Colleges includes membership of the directors, coordinators and staff of the student health service programs serving the approximately 2.1 million CCC students. We also advocate for the hundreds of thousands of CCC students who do not have a campus student health services program.

Please act immediately and give the direction to Acting Chancellor Daisy Gonzalez to instruct all Districts to institute a COVID-19 vaccine mandate. Those who already do this will continue. Those students who are in districts who are without a directive can begin to benefit both in health and in full classes.

To date, 33 CCCs have passed a COVID-19 vaccine mandate, according to The Chronicle of Higher Education's database ([https://www.chronicle.com/blogs/live-coronavirus-updates/heres-a-list-of-colleges-that-will-require-students-to-be-vaccinated-against-covid-19?utm\\_source=Iterable&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=campaign\\_3110030\\_nl\\_Academe-Today\\_date\\_20211029&cid=at&source=&sourceid=](https://www.chronicle.com/blogs/live-coronavirus-updates/heres-a-list-of-colleges-that-will-require-students-to-be-vaccinated-against-covid-19?utm_source=Iterable&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=campaign_3110030_nl_Academe-Today_date_20211029&cid=at&source=&sourceid=))

1. Allan Hancock College
2. American River College
3. Bakersfield College
4. Berkeley City College
5. Cerros Coso College
6. Chabot College (starting Spring 2022)
7. Coastline College
8. College of Alameda
9. Consumnes River College
10. Cuesta College
11. Cuyamaca College
12. Cypress College
13. De Anza College
14. El Camino College
15. Folsom Lake College
16. Foothill College
17. Fullerton College
18. Golden West College
19. Grossmont College
20. Laney College
21. Merritt College
22. Mira Costa College
23. Moreno Valley College
24. Norco College
25. Ohlone College
26. Orange Coast College
27. Porterville College
28. Riverside City College
29. Sacramento City College

- 30. Santa Barbara City College
- 31. Santa Monica College
- 32. Santa Rosa Junior College
- 33. Southwestern College

Respectfully,



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